TOWN OF BRISTOL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Department of Community Development
35 Washington Street, Bristol, Rhode Island

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:
Tony Morettini, Chairman
Ray Payson, Vice-Chairman
Lindsay Green
Craig Fisher
Glenn Donovan
Jay Maciel, Recording Secretary

Staff Present:
Ed Tanner

Members Absent:
Lee Ann Freitas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morettini at 5:34 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Mr. Payson and seconded by Mr. Fisher. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.
2. Open Space: Mr. Tanner reported that there has been a preliminary discussion with the RI Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) regarding ideas for trails at the Mount Hope Community Forest. Mr. Morettini noted that the trails at the Perry – Tavares Farm need to be re-marked. Mr. Tanner announced that an Open Space Acquisition Request for a conservation easement has been received. Mr. Tanner said he will set up a site visit for Commissioners to evaluate the property.
3. Tree Program: Mr. Tanner reported that a second delivery of trees for the fall tree planting cycle was received today. Mr. Tanner said that he and Tree Warden Steve Saracino have selected locations for the trees. The remaining trees for this planting cycle are expected to be delivered later in the fall. Mr. Fisher presented the final draft of the Urban Forest Management Plan that included edits submitted by Commissioners. Mr. Morettini made a motion to distribute the Urban Forest Management Plan to the Department of Community Development, the Town Administrator, the Tree Warden, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Parks and Recreation for their review with comments requested by November 1 so that the Conservation Commission may then discuss their comments and develop a final master document. Mr. Donovan seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 6-0. Mr. Payson noted that Town tree ordinances need to be reviewed and brought up to date. Obtaining a town-wide arboretum designation was discussed, as was applying for a Tree City USA Growth Award.
4. Composting Program: Mr. Morettini reported that the Town's curbside compost collection program now has 301 participants. Since the program began, a total of 85 tons of food waste has been collected town-wide.
5. Open Meetings Act (OMA): Mr. Morettini reminded Commissioners of a recent email from Deputy Clerk Carla DaCosta outlining Open Meeting Act requirements, in particular: 1. Annual notice of scheduled meetings for 2027, 2. Meeting agenda posting procedures, and 3. Preparation and submission of meeting minutes.

continued

OCTOBER 2026 MEETING MINUTES, *continued*

6. Around the Room: Mr. Morettini asked all to consider voting yes on Question 5, the Green Economy Bonds because it includes funding for open space acquisition, which ties to our mission. Ms. Green announced that Ethen Tapper will be the keynote speaker at the Audubon Society of RI's annual meeting on October 18 at The Casino at Roger Williams Park. Ms. Green also announced a "Slow the Flow: Homeowner Solutions for Managing Stormwater" workshop will be hosted at Ocean Hour Farm in Newport on October 29.
7. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciel